

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 7, 12, 19, and 24 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 5, 11, 16, 23, and 28, respectively. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 1, 7, 12, 19, and 24 can be found in Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 12, 16, 19, 23, 24, and 28, as previously resented.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, 17-22, and 24-27 are active in this application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Abbott for indicating that Claims 5, 11, 16, 23, and 28 are only objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendments, all of the present claims are now allowable.

The rejection of Claims 1, 6/1, 7, 12, 17/1, 18/1, 19, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Fujimata et al; the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17/1, 17/2, 18/1, 18/2, 19, 20, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,973,595 (Robel) and British Poultry Science; and the rejection of Claims 1-3, 4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 7-9, 10/7, 10/8, 10/9, 12-14, 15/12, 15/13, 15/14, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3, 18/1, 18/2, 18/3, 19-21, 22/19, 22/20, 22/21, 24-26, 27/24, 27/25, and 27/26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Al-Murrani have been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will note, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 7, 12, 19, and 24 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 5, 11, 16, 23, and 28, respectively. Applicants submit that Claims 1, 7, 12, 19, and 24 (and the claims dependent thereof) are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons that Claims 5, 11, 16, 23, and 28 were indicated as being allowable.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Lastly, Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement that no copy of Fujimata et al cited in the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report has been filed. However, Applicants note that the citation of Fujimata et al in the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is a typographical error and that the correct citation is S. Katsumata et al, Bulletin of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Nihon University, vol. 34, pp. 223-231 (1977) (Katsumata et al), and that an English translation of Katsumata et al was filed with the Amendment filed on March 12, 2004.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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